

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

stroke she had had on the previous night. "After we had written a letter," wrote Barduccio to Suor Caterina Petriboni, a nun in the Florentine convent of S. Piero a Monticelli, " she had another stroke, so much more terrible that we all mourned for her as dead, and she remained for a long space of time in such a state that no sign of life appeared in her ; then, after several hours, she rose up, and it did not seem that she was herself."

A few days later, the rancour that, since the destruction of Sant' Angelo, had been steadily increasing between Urban and the Romans came to a head. To Catherine's spiritual eyes, the whole city seemed full of demons, urging the populace to rise in tumult and take the Pontiff's life. Fra Raimondo pictures her to us, wrestling in spirit with the Lord, beseeching Him, for honour of His name and for the sake of the Church, to inflict upon her body all the chastisements that the Roman People had merited for the innumerable sins committed in the Eternal City, and so restore harmony between them and the Pope. It is said that the populace assailed the Vatican in arms, and that Urban ordered the gates of the palace to be thrown open, received the insurgents seated upon his papal throne, and succeeded in appeasing their fury.¹ We do not know what part Catherine played in this affair, but the reconciliation was attributed to her prayers, and not improbably was due to her direct influence upon Giovanni Cenci, the democratic leader of the Roman republicans. In that case, this was her last political work, and surely not the least noble of her achievements.

"Then," writes Barduccio Camgiani, "began new pains and

¹ Cf. *LegenJa*, III. ii. 2-4 (§§ 345, 346); Gobelinus Persona, *Cosmodromiunt*, cap. 76. The accounts of this affair given by Raynaldus, vii. p. 389, and Maimbourg, I, pp. 147, 148, are simply taken from Gobelinus, that of St. Antoninus, III. pp. 714, 715, being based upon the *Legenda** Raynaldus and Maimbourg ascribe it to the latter part of 1379, ^{DUt} Catherine, Letter 373 (102), seems to imply that it took place on February 2, 1380. We read in the *Anonimo Florentine* pp. 401, 402, under October 10, 1379, of an earlier tumult, where it is stated that the Roman People had made Giovanni Cenci tribune of Rome : " E '1 Papa ebbe gran paura. Onde la cosa si riposi in questo tribune." In 1380, Giovanni Cenci was appointed Senator of Rome.